



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Service for the Lord's Day — December 21, 2025 4th Sunday of Advent *From Generation to Generation*

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

When you see an asterisk *, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE *Bright and Glorious Is the Sky* arr. Michael Bedford

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Suzanne Baxter

DEACON'S MOMENT

Lindsey Wallace

CHIME

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Jacques Berthier

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Warren Puffer Jones

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - *Isaiah 2:4; 11:6; 35:1*

Lindsey, Lane, and Case Wallace

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: Advent means coming.

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days

People: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

***LITANY FOR ADVENT**

John Harris

Leader: O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long, you are the Cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Immanuel, our Sovereign and Lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

People: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever.

People: Amen.

***CAROL 103**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. (silent confession)

103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love; make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, hope of u - ni - ty; make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus; rec-on-cile all peo - ple.

KOREAN

- 1 오소서 오소서 평화의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 2 오소서 오소서 사랑의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 3 오소서 오소서 자유의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서
- 4 오소서 오소서 통일의 임금
우리가 한몸 이루게 하소서

Originally created for a 1988 world conference for the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, these four stanzas centering on peace, love, freedom, and unity demonstrate how texts for particular situations can become hymns that speak deeply to shared human longings.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
To this peace we are called as members of a single body.
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

*To God the Father, God the Son, and Holy Spirit Three in one.
May every tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise. Amen.*

We Proclaim God's Word

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The First Christmas

(Please remain seated and sing along with us.)

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

*We wish you a Merry Christmas! We wish you a Merry Christmas!
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

SCENE 1: MARY AND THE ANGEL

What Child Is This?

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

SCENE 2: JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

SCENE 3: THE TRIP TO BETHLEHEM AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

SCENE 4: THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGEL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled." Joyful all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

SCENE 5: THE WISE MEN AND THE STAR

(Please rise in body or spirit and sing with us.)

Joy to the World

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing!*

RECOGNITION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Lane Wallace

ANTHEM

See Amid the Winter's Snow

John Goss

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Dan Forrest

*Alleluia! See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Lo, within a
manger lies he who built the lofty skies, he who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-58 (pg. 59)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

Mary's Song

Warren Puffer Jones

Camryn Creech, soprano

Luke 1:46-49

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

REFLECTION

We See God in Each Other

Rev. John C. McKinnon

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*ADVENT HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE

Advent Amen

STILL, STILL, STILL

Sanctuary Singers

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.



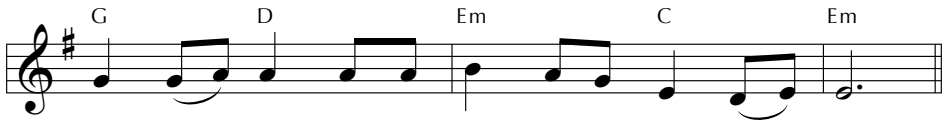
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

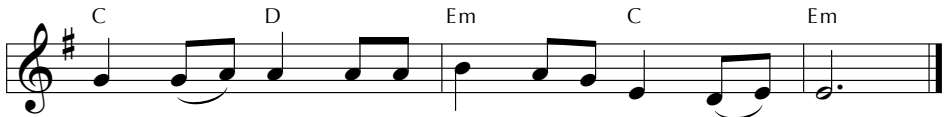
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Collection plates are located by the doors as you exit the Sanctuary.)

OFFERTORY

Angels' Song

Glanville Smith

*DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go in God's Name

*CAROL 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

arr. Richard Lind

**Give to
FPC today!**



123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

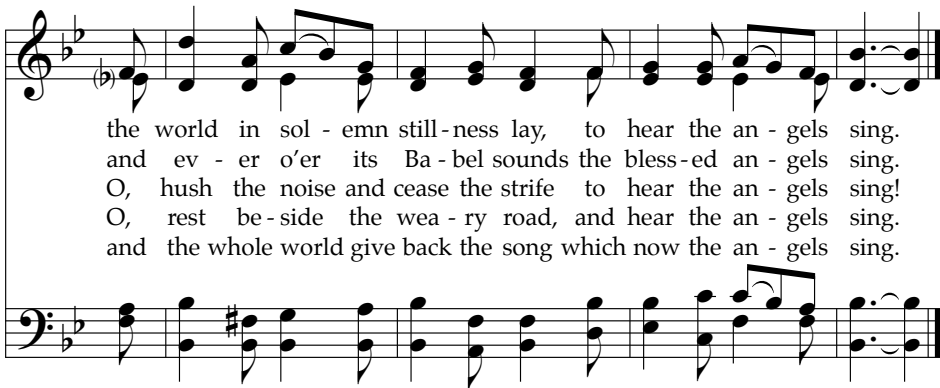


"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The "it" of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to "that glorious song of old," the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH



the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Today

Sunday School Classes

- Evergreen | Room B-14 (9:30 a.m.)
- New Beginnings | Fireside Room (9:30 a.m.)
- Builders | Room B-8 (9:45 a.m.)
- High School | Youth Lounge (9:45 a.m.)
- Middle School | Room B-10 (9:45 a.m.)
- Children | Room 213 (9:45 a.m.)

Coffee & Cookies Fellowship | 9:30-10:55 a.m.

Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are available in the Reception Center every Sunday before worship!

Sanctuary Worship | 11:00 a.m.

Youth Chorale Rehearsals | 12:00 p.m.

Middle and High School students (grades 5 through 12) are invited to stay after worship on Sundays (except for the 1st Sundays of the month)! We'll meet in Room B-32 and make music until 12:30 p.m.

Tactus Concert: Following the Star | 4:00 p.m.

In the darkest time of the year, we bring music of hope and renewal, celebrating the Christmas season and the winter solstice. Music by Franz Schubert, Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Benjamin Britten, Errollyn Wallen, Randall Thompson, and more, featuring the seamlessly blended voices of the Tactus Vocal Ensemble. *Pre-concert talk begins at 3:30 p.m.*

Tickets are \$20, and K-12 students attend for free! Tickets can be bought online or at the door.

More info can be found at tactusensemble.org/concerts/following-the-star.

FPC-OKC Podcast

Discover the FPC-OKC Podcast, featuring weekly sermons, sacred music, and evening prayer services. Whether you missed a Sunday or want to revisit a meaningful message or song, each episode offers inspiration, reflection, and a sense of connection wherever you are. Listen on your favorite streaming platform by searching FPCOKC or visit tinyurl.com/FPCOKCpodcast.

Upcoming Events

Bridge Group — Mondays | 6:00-8:00 p.m. & Wednesdays | 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We meet in Room B-10 (basement) on Mondays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Whether you've never played, are returning after a break, or just want a friendly bridge group to join, **contact Dan MacLemore at 405-496-0185 or rockdoc1949@gmail.com**.

Note: Bridge Group will not meet December 24 or 31.

Evening Prayer Service — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m., followed by an Evening Prayer Service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. This is a short worship service featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

After the service, we'll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Note: There will be no service on December 24.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.

Our Free Yoga Class is available weekly on Wednesdays! Angela Rose leads the hour-long class in the Rec Room in the basement. All skill levels are welcome. ***Note: No class on December 24 or 31.***

Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays! If you are interested in joining please reach out to Puffer Jones (puffer@fpcokc.org). ***Note: No rehearsal on December 24 or 31.***

Christmas Eve Services

Young & Young at Heart Service — Wednesday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

Our family-friendly Young & Young at Heart Service will take place in the Chapel and include the Treble Choir and some of your favorite carols!

Service of Lessons & Carols — Wednesday, December 24 | 10:30 p.m.

Our candlelight service of Lessons & Carols is modeled after the service of nine lessons and carols made popular by King's College, Cambridge. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir anthems.

We hope you can join us for this very special time of worship! (**Prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.**)

Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 2 | 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a special midday concert featuring Mr. John L. Edwards on the organ, in the Sanctuary choir loft. This 45-minute program is based on the story of the Nativity and will include music by Bach/Gounod, Daquin, Gray, Mui, and Smith.

A free lunch will follow in Watchorn Hall. Donations accepted. **For lunch reservations, call the church office (405-525-6584) by December 31.**

Menu: Lemon Chicken, Roasted Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, and Lemon Cake

First Presbyterian Church

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